

Governor Carney, Secretary Bunting Announce Establishment of Teachers Advisory Council

Council will gather feedback from educators statewide, increase the voice of teachers in policy decisions

DOVER, Del. – Governor John Carney and Dr. Susan Bunting, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Education, announced on Tuesday the establishment of a new Teachers Advisory Council to gather the feedback of educators from across the state.

Secretary Bunting invited two teachers from each of the state's 19 school districts and six charter school educators to join the group, which will facilitate communication, contribute to solutions, and help increase the voice of teachers in policy decisions. The group will meet bi-monthly to discuss a variety of issues affecting teachers.

"Educators work on the front lines helping prepare Delaware's children for the future," said **Governor Carney**. "We are committed to transforming the Department into a true support agency to help schools and educators better serve their students. This new advisory council will help ensure that we are listening to educators every step of the way as we make policy decisions that affect the classroom. Thank you to the educators who are participating, and Dr. Bunting and our team at the Department of Education for convening this group."

"This is an opportunity for me to hear directly from those who

work closest with our children and often feel the most direct effects of our policy decisions,” said **Secretary Bunting**.

Teachers participating on the new advisory council were recommended by their superintendents or the Delaware Charter School Network for the voluntary role. Secretary Bunting has asked each to share his or her personal feelings as an individual rather than serve as a representative of a district or charter school’s position on an issue.

This group is in addition to the Teacher of the Year Advisory Council, which Secretary Bunting also meets with bi-monthly.

Educators participating in the new advisory council include:

- Kristyn Bradford of **Lake Forest North Elementary** in Lake Forest School District
- Seth Buford of **Milford High School** in Milford School District
- Shorel Clark of **Brittingham Elementary School** in Cape Henlopen School District
- Marisa Clarke of **Central Elementary** in Seaford School District
- Guy Cooper of **Providence Creek Academy** charter school
- Luke Crossan of **Waters Middle School** in Appoquinimink School District
- Todd Cushman of **Delmar Middle School** in Delmar School District
- Chelsea Darczuk of **East Side Charter School**
- Robert Edmondson of **Seaford Middle School** in Seaford School District
- Catherine (Katy) Evans of **Sunnyside Elementary School** in the Smyrna School District
- Christina Gallo of **Lake Forest High School** in Lake Forest School District

- Shelby Gordon of **Bunker Hill Elementary School** in Appoquinimink School District
- Emily Green of **Caesar Rodney High School** in Caesar Rodney School District
- Robert Harrod of **Cape Henlopen High School** in Cape Henlopen School District
- Matt Hoopes of **Concord High School** in Brandywine School District
- Shelley Hovanec of **Woodbridge Early Childhood Education Center** in Woodbridge School District
- Michelle Howard of **Delmar High School** in Delmar School District
- Lesley Louder of **Dover High School** in Capital School District
- Tina Lykens of **POLYTECH High School** in POLYTECH School District
- Jennifer MacDonald of **Smyrna High School** in Smyrna School District
- Nathalie Melvin of **South Dover Elementary School** in Capital School District
- Phyllis Mobley of **Harlan Elementary School** in Brandywine School District
- Elaine Norris of **Mispillion Elementary School** in Milford School District
- Petra Palmer of **Delcastle High School** in New Castle County Vo-Tech School District
- Michael Paoli of **Hodgson High School** in New Castle County Vo-Tech School District
- Sarah Polaski of **Christiana Middle School Academy** in Christina School District
- Moraima Reardon of **Woodbridge High School** in Woodbridge School District
- Lisa Richardson of **Millsboro Middle School** in Indian River School District
- Matthew Sabol of **William Penn High School** in Colonial School District
- Dara Savage of **Early College High School** charter school

- Cameron Sweeney of **POLYTECH High School** in POLYTECH School District
- Crystal Thawley of **Sussex Technical High School** in Sussex Technical School District
- Elizabeth Van Aulen of **Wilson Elementary School** in Christina School District
- Anthony Varrato of **Sussex Technical High School** of Sussex Technical School District
- Kim Weber of **Welch Elementary** in Caesar Rodney School District
- Leigh Weldin of **Conrad School of Sciences** in Red Clay Consolidated School District
- Karen Willey of **Sussex Academy** charter school
- Jill Young of **Lord Baltimore Elementary** in Indian River School District
- Stacie Zdrojewski of **Red Clay Consolidated School District Office**

The Teacher Advisory Council will meet on Tuesday, March 27th from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Collette Education Resource Center Conference Room, 35 Commerce Way, Suite 1, Dover.

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